

ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
October/November/December 2002



Echo Ireland is normally published bi-monthly for members by the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society,
P.O. Box 462, Dublin 9.
www.irts.ie

It is printed by Westside Press,
Units 5/6, Greenhills Business Centre,
Tallaght, Dublin 24.

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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do
not necessarily represent the views of the
Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition
December 31st**

Seasons Greetings
to
all members
and their families
from the
Officers
and Committee
of the
Irish Radio
Transmitters
Society

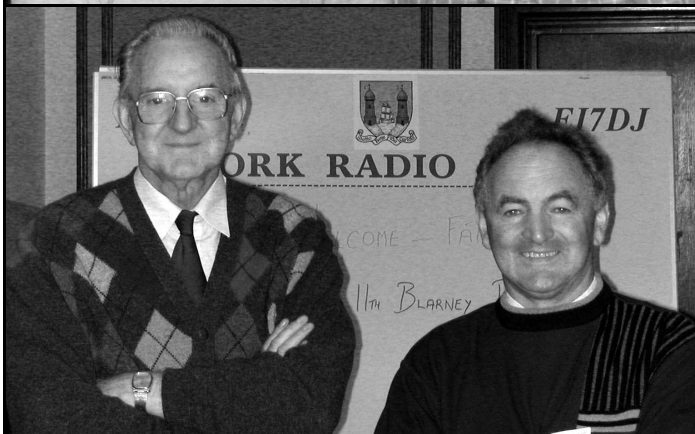
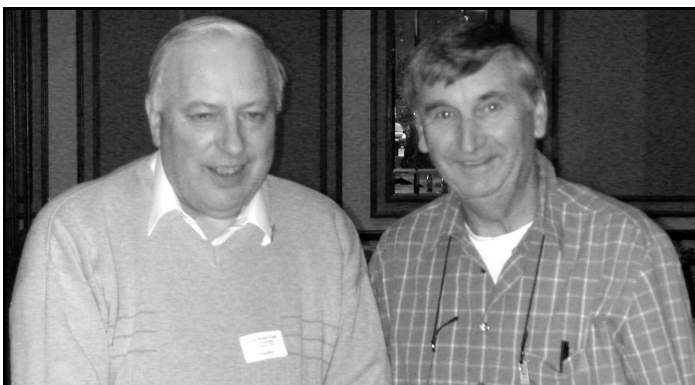


Tipperary Wedding

John Burke EI2JB, Tommy Hallinan EI2IT (Groom), Marie SWL (Bride), Marie,
Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI, Gerry Birkhead EI9DZ, Paul Norris EI3ENB, Catherine.

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At the Cork Rally 2002

Top: Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS and Jim Ryan EI3DP

Bottom: John O'Sullivan EI3EC and Jack Cashman EI7FD

Squares Table 2002

Callsign	6m	4m	2m	70cm	23cm	Total
EI3IO	307	24	1	1	0	333
EI5FK	168	0	113	30	0	311
EI2FSB	243	0	59	7	1	310
EI6IZ	290	1	1	1	0	293
EI7BMB	279	0	0	0	0	279
EI2JD	252	0	17	3	0	272
EI7GL	224	11	22	3	0	260
EI3IX	210	2	8	2	0	222
EI7BFB	173	0	15	0	0	188
EI3EBB	98	0	6	1	0	105
EI7IX	85	1	5	1	0	92
EI7FNB	65	0	4	0	0	69
EI9IW	51	0	2	0	0	53
EI4IX	0	0	50	0	0	50
EI3FFB	15	0	0	0	0	15
EI7FAB	1	3	1	1	0	6

Fingal Radio Club trip to Llandudno.

By Paul Hurley EI2JF

Before dawn on Saturday 2nd of November 11 people were driven by Minibus to Dublin Port to depart on the 0615 sailing for Holyhead. The "Jonathan Swift" (Irish Ferries High Speed ferry) left on time. The crossing was calm and we were off the boat and in GW land just after 0800.

The weather was dry and bright. Gerry "our driver" got us to Llandudno just after 0900. Our early arrival was in time for the show, but the doors opened at 1000. A select bunch managed to stroll through an exit to have a quick peek; we evaded attention and went outside to join the rest of the group for a hearty Welsh breakfast.

The centre of Llandudno provided many hotels and guesthouses. Llandudno would be similar to Salthill or Bray. Soon enough the hamming hour of 1000 was approaching when the rally opened. We arrived at the Conference centre and already a queue had started to form.

When we got in there was a mad dash over to the Bring and Buy stall. Having been to this rally before, I took a lei-

surely stroll around the 3 rooms looking at the various traders and their wares.

I brought my 2m rig over and was soon QRV with other MW/EI's. This led to a number of meetings with GW/MWs who many of us hear and never actually meet in person. One of these was Chris GW4VAG. I met a number of EI's from counties Mayo, Donegal, Limerick, Meath, Dublin and Kildare. You all know who they are. (Hi Hi)

A number of traders were there, Moonraker, Waters & Stanton, Sandpiper and a good number of other stalls.

We were soon to leave the rally and I hastily made my way round grabbing as many bargains as I could afford. All the goodies were stuffed into the back of the Minibus, under seats and every space that an antenna could fit.

Our journey back to Holyhead included a meal stop in "The Old Station House" where the group enjoyed a nice meal. If you ever find yourself in this location, don't order the Ultimate Chocolate Challenge if you want a small desert. It

is big enough for two.

When we arrived at Holyhead the high-speed crossing was cancelled and we would have to wait for the 0330 sailing back. Valley was selected as a suitable place for refreshment in preparation for our long wait.

Before long it was time to leave Valley for the Ulysses home. Many tried to get some sleep as it was a long day and was going to be a longer night. We began boarding around 0245 and on the dot of 0330 the ferry pushed out and we on our way home to EI.

We arrived in Dublin Port just after 0700 after a successful trip.

I would like to say a big thank you to Liam EI3HK, Gerry the driver and all at Fingal Radio Club. Just for the record, those who went on the trip were: Liam EI3HK, Chris EI7AAB, Peter EI5JE, Leo EI6ALB, Andy EI4ERB, Paul EI2JF, Nicky EI9JF, Sean EI7CV, Harry EI9BW, Mick EI4JL.

Paul Hurley EI2JF



From the Editor.....

Welcome to another edition of the Newsletter, bringing another year to an end. With this issue you will have received the 2003 Year Book which is right up to date with the call listings.

However, forget that the call listings are available on line on the IRTS Web Site. Joe Ryan EI7GY keeps them updated very regularly. If you get a new call-sign, drop a note to Joe.

CW News

On a sad note I have to report that the weekly CW News broadcasts have ceased in recent weeks. Jow Bloggs EI2IH who had taken over from Pat EI9EZ is in the process of moving house and a replacement could not be found.

These broadcasts were started by Tom EI3HH and continued by Pat EI9EZ and attracted a loyal following on Sunday mornings at 1030.

If you could make the commitment to carry on this service, we would love to hear from you.

IARU Conference

The Society was represented in San Marino at the recent Region 1 Conference by Sean Nolan EI7CD and Sean Donelan EI4GK.

The extension of the 7 MHz band which is on the agenda for WRC 2003 was one of the main talking points. The society has been proactive in briefing Ireland's representatives at this conference and we very much appreciate the co-operation of John Breen of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources who is chairing the committee preparing for WRC 2003.

As we come to the end of another year I would like to pay tribute to all the people who keep the society going on a day to day basis.

There is a lot of work involved, much of it unseen, and we are fortunate to have so many willing and able volunteers available.

I wish you all a very holy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year.

Silent Key

John Quilter EI7BD

John Quilter EI7BD from Dingle passed away on October 12th 2002 after a short illness.

John was well known in the Limerick and Region 4 area over the years. He was a big man, great company and had his own special way of telling a story.

He was a staunch supporter of activities in the region over the years and was the main organiser of the original DXpedition to the Great Blasket Island in 1960.

He served at sea as a Marine Radio Officer for several years, later setting up a radio electrical business in Dingle. This included the installation and servicing of marine radio gear—navigation, echo sounding for trawlers and other craft.

I had the pleasure of visiting John and his wife Hannah in September - an event I thoroughly enjoyed and will always remember.

We extend our sympathies to his wife Hannah, his son Sean, daughters Kitty, Frances, Paula and Mary, his daughter in law and sons in law.

May he rest in peace.

Paddy Maher EI3AV.

Silent Key

Claire Whelan EI5DGB

Claire Whelan EI5DGB from Waterford passed away recently. She will be sadly missed by her family and all those who had dealings with her through amateur radio over the years.

We extend our deepest sympathy to her family.



Les GI4RMA meets some natives in New Jersey

Left to Right: Don WA2DUE, Joe W2ORA, Jim WJ2F, Les GI4RMA, Jack KC2AZR and Matt W2MAT.

Recently, Les GI4RMA together with his wife Patricia, his daughter and three grandchildren were flying from Dublin to Newark, New Jersey on route to Florida and a trip to Disney World.

Some New Jersey hams, all with Irish connections, who had worked Les over the years decided to make the trip to the airport to meet Les and family on their stop-over on Sunday October 20th.

Following some good work with 2 metre handhelds, they all got together for an hour and a half and had a very enjoyable eyeball QSO.

Thanks to Matt W2MAT who kindly organised and forward the photograph.

“Shaken, not Stirred” on EU-007

By Sean Donelan EI4GK



Sean EI4GK looking windswept!

The Blasket Islands are only a few short miles off the tip of the Dingle Peninsula. They are mildly historic, extremely important in literary terms, stunningly beautiful, and to Radio Amateurs, the location of the unique IOTA reference EU-007. Quite a few DXpeditions, both large and small, have activated the Blaskets in the past ten years but the islands could still be described as “rare” to the IOTA chasers of the hobby.

Mindful of all of this, Declan EI9HQ and myself, EI4GK decided in the Spring of 2001 to undertake a two-man DXpedition to the Great Blasket Island to see if we might reduce its rarity value! With almost ten years experience of various island operations, we felt that this island was ripe for conquest. Little did we know how wrong we were!!

The first problem faced by two Dublin based amateurs seeking to activate the Blasket Islands is geographic. Sitting out there in the Atlantic, they are a long way from everywhere – particularly Dublin. Having told the ferry operator that we were on the way we set off with a mountain of gear and high hopes. When we contacted him again to give our ETA in Dunquin he advised us that, as a storm was brewing, the last boat would sail at 1600 hours.

We made it with 30 minutes to spare and then realised that Dunquin Harbour is



several hundred feet below where the road ends and all our gear had to be carried down a very steep slope. With the help of a somewhat bemused English tourist we loaded much of our gear aboard the ferry but left a large part behind in the cars.

Having reached the island, where there is no pier, we were involved in more pulling and hauling to get our gear ashore, but the island’s only tractor removed some of that burden from our shoulders. Now we were faced with the bugbear of the islands – WEATHER. The ferry that delivered us to the island departed and was not to return for three days. In that time, the two radio amateurs and the three other people who constituted the island’s population experienced the full force of an Atlantic storm. We were able to work the pile-ups and conditions were not at all bad but when you are worried about getting home, little else matters!! We did get off - on the fourth day – but then had to carry all our gear back up to the road at Dunquin.

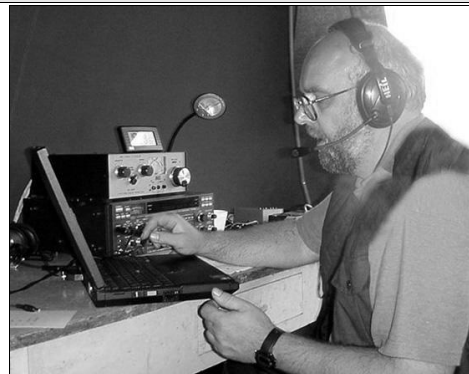
As we came into Summer 2002, the intrepid adventurers decided that another visit to the island was necessary to complete last year’s unfinished business. This time we were not going to repeat the mistakes of last year.

Forget the Dunquin Ferry, let’s take the ferry from Dingle. Forget the mad dash to get to Dingle before the last boat leaves for the island, let’s travel the day before and sail early in the morning. “These Dublin Guys have all the answers”. Wrong again!!

As the storms raged in the Atlantic, we waited for word from Dingle. At the end of a week we decided to travel in the belief that the weather had to change soon. Some Hope!

We waited for several more days in Dingle before the ferry eventually sailed. Then we watched helplessly as the waves washed over the side of the boat and flooded our precious equipment. We did get on the air but after 24 hours the bands died.

Before they could recover, we were advised that another storm was on the way and “If ye don’t get off to-day, ye could be marooned for a week”. We got off!!



Declan EI9HQ in action

As I listened to the early morning weather forecast one Sunday morning in September, I realised that the country was facing its first fine spell of weather in Summer 2002.

I made a quick decision to take off at short notice for Kerry with the objective of cracking our “Blasket Hoodoo”.

This time, I was on my own.

This time, the ferry sailed when it was supposed to. This time, the sun shone and the island was revealed in all its beauty. This time, the bands were in sparkling form and 1,700 QSOs later, I was happy to drop the Carolina Windom, pack the gear, say goodbye to Peig Sayers cottage and head for Dingle. This time it was third time lucky!

Like 007 himself, the Blaskets are a formidable challenge. They beckon the radio amateur with their rarity value and their unique IOTA reference but they extract a price for success.

Weather, terrain, remoteness and one of the most dangerous stretches of water in the country, conspire to make life difficult.

Go there, enjoy the pile-ups you generate but be prepared for 007 to pull a few tricks of his own to make life difficult for you.

Sean Donelan EI4GK



Licensing Issues

Report on a meeting with the Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation

A meeting as held with the ODTR on Wednesday November 6th at the River Court Hotel in Kilkenny City.

Dave Thom and Claire Nolan represented the ODTR and we thank them for providing the facilities and lunch. The Society was represented by its President Dave Moore EI4BZ, Vice-President Sean Nolan EI7CD, and Secretary Sean Donelan EI4GK.

One of the problems in the past was the lack of any record of discussions between the licensing authority and the Society and it was proposed by the IRTS that agreed minutes of the meeting would be produced. This has been done

Following the introduction of the new licensing regulations on September 11th, various comments have been expressed and much speculation has been heard. The meeting addressed these issues.

Power Levels.

Dave Thom explained the definition of power was changed to facilitate easier making of measurements. 26 dBW is roughly equivalent to 400 watts p.e.p. See the article elsewhere in this issue on the subject.

It was agreed that permission could be sought for the use of higher power for specific events i.e. contests etc., provided that the location was sufficiently remote. This would be granted to clubs only subject to strict enforcement of the guidelines.

Any abuses would prevent future concessions being made.

Spurious emissions

The spurious emission levels quoted in the new experimenter's licence Part VI (Technical conditions of the experimenter's station) were taken directly from the latest ITU Regulations.

The attenuation level of 70dB for transmitters installed after January 1st 2003 has caused some worry to the amateur community as being excessive but all the radio manufacturers have been aware of this since the year 2000 and problems are not anticipated. Additional output filtering will probably be required for homebrew or vintage equipment.

Licence Renewal

The following procedures will apply to licence renewal.

Renewal notices will be issued 28 days prior to the due date. The licence will lapse if this is not paid within 28 days of the due date.

Lapsed licences within a reasonable time span will only be reissued on payment of €12. Licensees who do not renew will be treated as being unlicensed. Existing Class A licensees are now automatically entitled to all the bands as listed in Part IV of the new Experimenter's Licence, other than those requiring an individual application. A new licence and documentation will be issued on the next renewal of each licence. Do not generate further work by applying for bands and modes that are now granted automatically.

The same applies to class B's licensees for frequencies of 144 MHz and above.

Logbook

Under the new regulations, you must keep a logbook for at least six months.

Re-issued callsigns

Callsigns will not be re-issued without the permission of the previous holder or next of kin.

Club Callsigns

Callsigns will not be issued to clubs unless they submit a constitution, list of officers and membership list. Clubs will be entitled to one three-letter callsign and one single letter callsign for contests.

EI/EJ Prefixes

The EJ situation has finally been clarified and the EJ prefix will be permanently associated with the corresponding EI prefix.

It will not be issued as a separate callsign. This reverts to previous practice. The EI prefix will automatically change to EJ when operating on an offshore island.

Callsigns issued for a special event will be valid only for the duration of that event or expedition.

EI0HQ

It was agreed that EI0HQ would be issued to IRTS as their contest call. This is particularly necessary for the IARU Contest each July.

Beacons

Application for beacon licences will be referred to the National Repeater Committee. This will ensure proper frequency co-ordination with IARU beacon co-ordinator.

Interference

The ODTR within legal constraints will pursue cases of interference reported to them.

Problems with a major telephone service provider are being investigated and should be of help to many when resolved.

Complaints of interference should be reported in writing to the ODTR.

New Allocations

A request by the Society for an allocation directly above 1300MHz will be granted subject to IAA clearance.

An allocation around 5MHz is not possible at this time as there are two Government users.

135.7 – 137.8kHz – was examined by the by the ODTR and has now been granted. Full details available shortly.

Suggestions for an allocation around 500kHz will be looked at after WRC 2003 if the allocation is approved there.

Emergency Communications

All licensees are permitted to partake in emergency operations without individual ODTR approval provided they are under the auspices of AREN or Raynet Ireland.

Tactical calls may only be used in conjunction with personal callsigns.

Theory Examinations

IRTS have agreed in principle to take over the running of the theory exams subject to acceptable terms and conditions.

There will be ongoing discussions on this as there are some obstacles requiring consideration

Conclusion

This was a very satisfactory meeting and the Society appreciates the frank approach adopted by the ODTR representatives.

While we still have some issues outstanding, mostly minor ones, we are happy that we now have a good working relationship with the Directors office.



On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY,
13 Hazel Road, Togher, Cork
ei2hy@iol.ie

Welcome to another On The Air issue and certainly we have plenty to report on!

It was a bumper few weeks for IOTA chasers with many rare and even a few new ones gracing the airwaves while DXCC hunters also had plenty to smile about with many rare ones popping up and excellent conditions during the SSB leg of the CQ WW and DX-peditions ranging from the professional to the controversial.

Band Reports

We start off with reference to my last comment where we had an operation from Chatham Islands (OC-038) by the Kermadec gang. That was the professional one but an Italian led trip to the Chesterfield Islands (OC-176) caused a little controversy!

ZL7C came on air on October 17th and had a superb signal from the word go. It was quite easy to work them from EI, as again like the Campbell Island trip, lying so far west in Europe, gives us the edge when propagation is dying for the rest of the Continent. The stations were set up at a sports centre on the Island which includes a race course so there was plenty of room to set up antennae. Indeed they were able to separate the antennae for CW and SSB in two different fields. Total amount of QSO's at the end of the trip was over 72,200 which included some dupes in the CQ WW contest.

I was happy to work them on **10m** CW for a new band country. QSL's go to Ken ZL4HU.

The Chesterfield Islands are one of our newer entities and have only seen two serious operations, so it was with eager anticipation that the DX community awaited the operation scheduled by a largely Italian group. Imagine the chaos when it emerged that even though they obtained a call sign TX0AT from the New Caledonian authorities nearly all the operation took place on the so called CB/Freeband!

This is quite legal in New Caledonia and has the range 26.965-27.855 MHz so it seems that despite the fact that more activity took place on the CB/Freeband than the Amateur bands, it will count for DXCC but one wonders why organise a trip to a rare DXCC to play CB?

In the end it was only two Italian ops

that made the trip, Paolo IZ0EVI, and Luca IZ6DSQ, as some of the other ops "pulled" out. Reports of them on CW would seem to be that of Slim as both ops are SSB only.

A similar attempt to operate on the CB band was made during the TI9M operation from Coco's Island but the team leaders firmly put paid to that.

No such problems though for two other groups of Italians out in the Pacific with FO/IK2GNW and FO/I2YSB handing out the Austral Islands in the form of Rurutu Island (OC-050). Plans for a side trip to Maria Island (OC-New) had to be cancelled due to transportation problems.

A lot further west in the Pacific on the Island nation of Micronesia the other Italian group using the calls V63RE (IT9YRE) and V63WN (I1SNW) gave out two previously unactivated IOTA's, first from Nomwin Island (OC-253/pr) and then from Ta Island (OC-254/pr). Other new IOTA's in that region were VI3JPI (OC-251) on Lady Julia Percy Island (see last issue) who made 2,883 contacts from the Island despite having to charter a helicopter to take them out there due to high seas.

Kadek YC9BU/7 and friends who gave out Temaja Island (OC-252/pr).

The onslaught continued as Jan PA3EXX came on first from Woody Wallis Island as VK4WWI, one of the last remaining unactivated Island groups left in Australia and then moved onto OC-187.

The /pr after some of the IOTA numbers mean that the reference number issued is a provisional one which becomes official once the group or individual provides the IOTA Committee with satisfactory proof that they operated and had permission etc to operate from the Island in question.

Staying with the IOTA programme for a while, we had another new one last month, this time in Iran when Victor, UT8LL obtained permission to use EP6KI during an International Air Show on Qeys Island.

This forms part of the previously un-numbered Hormozgan Province West Group and now has the Provisional number (AS-166). This was the first Iranian Island to be activated and hopefully there'll be more to follow. Signals were not that great on their primary

band of **15m** but the operators were enthusiastic and controlled the howling mob reasonably well. QSL this one to G4WFZ.

To round off the spate of new reference numbers being issued, Pedro gave out SA-093/pr as HK3JJH/4. Staying in South America, some Argentine hams gave out Leones Island (SA-065) using L65W and then AY4EJ/D gave out Ariadna Island (SA-021).

A case of blink and you'll miss them applied to 4X6HP/P and 4Z5LA/P who operated for a few brief hours from Akhziv Island (AS-100) during daylight hours on October 6th.

In for the long haul though the large group of JA and some multi-national amateurs continue to hand out Ogawara (AS-031) as 8N1OGA.

Heading south from there a lot of activity from American Samoa (KH8) as a group from the UK joined up with some Hawaiian operators to give out two different IOTA's at the same time.

Using special one by one calls issued by the FCC, K8T operated from the main Island of Tutuila (OC-045) and finished up with a total of 11,047 QSO's. Cards go to GW0ANA.

K8O roughed it on Ofu Island (OC-077) to put 16,817 QSO's in the log before going QRT on the morning of November 6th. QSL's go to AH6HY.

But exciting as these two IOTA's were, they were overshadowed by Mike KM9D, who along with his girlfriend Jan KF4TUG are doing a two year cruise of the Pacific and got permission to land and operate from Swains Island (OC-200). This lies about 203 nautical miles NNW from Tutuila and along with Rose Atoll (OC-190) make up the two rarest of the American Samoan groups. Also cruising the Pacific and heading now for New Zealand after a stint of been QRV as A35XX, Clark N5XX, is stirring it up again by coming on from Minerva Reef as A35XX/P.

This was once a DXCC country with the unofficial prefix of 1M but was deleted way back in July 1972 and now has even had its IOTA number of OC-061 deleted as its now under water, so just like Clarks operation from Beverage Reef (again see last issue) it will count for nothing more than a novelty contact.

Flying the flag for Europeans touring the

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Pacific Michael HB9DKX is concentrating on Europeans with his activity from primarily Tonga as A35RX and came up from IOTA's OC-049, OC-064 and OC-169.

On work assignment, Tony 3D2AG, is on from much sought after Rapa Island (OC-051), part of the Austral Islands as F05RK until Nov 28th.

Sailing onto the still warm waters of the Caribbean the Low-Land DX Team from the Netherlands once more hit the airwaves in a now annual pilgrimage from a Caribbean hotspot literally by operating from the still volcanically active Island of Montserrat (NA-103) with the main call used been VP2MPA.

There was also plenty of usage of personal calls like VP2MWM, VP2MWP and so on. Previous to this they operated from Dominica (NA-101) as J75PA with again some individual calls been used. QSL all calls to PA5ET.

Also headed for a hotspot were a large group of German ops who were very much burning up the bands as 3XY7C from Guinea, (not to be confused with nearby Equatorial Guinea which has the prefix 3C). This operation is QSLed via DL7DF.

Moving onto the main event over the last few weeks, the CQ WW SSB Contest over the weekend of October 26/27 was to my ears superb with nearly all my time spent on **10m** which proved to be more "open" than even **15m** and I heard/worked all 40 CQ Zones on there! Conditions seemed exceptional to Africa with gigantic end stopping signals from: TY0T (QSL I8ACB) who was even working by numbers!

D4B from Cape Verde (IK3HHX), CN8R (W7EJ), 9S1X (F2YT), 5U7JK, 6W/F6HLC, TT8ZZ (F5PTM) but main interest for me though was XX9C who was operating from Tapia Island, one of Macau's coastal Islands (AS-075) and I chased him on three bands **10m**, **15m** and **20m** just to be sure hi!

YA5T was making a rare appearance on SSB with an Australian operator handing out Zone 21. Incidentally it seems that both he and the other ops who work for the UN World Food Programme and were licensed to use YA5T have all left Afghanistan and may not return any time soon. Fear not though if you still need this country as Nick YA4F is now up and running with cards going to G4KUX.

Dan, JA1PBV, was active for a few days as YA1BV and now JA1CQT is on as YA1CQ so hopefully this country

wouldn't become quiet again just yet. Staying with the UN, to celebrate United Nations Day on October 24th Thor 4W6MM came on as 4U1ET from East Timor.

Handing out Iraq, YI9OM was very popular as was super contest station A61AJ, operating serenely on CW and ignoring the fact that the contest was on Phone.

5Z4DZ proved easy to catch on **10m** while coming in over the pole with noticeable flutter were 8N1OGA, KH0AA and T88EA (cards to JH1EAQ).

Anyone chasing the Zones on **10m** were spoiled for choice and if like me, you were hunting the elusive Zone 2 there were no fewer than three different groups QRV from it.

A lot of patience was needed to break the Mainland US pile ups but after a while VE2GSO and VC2C were safely bagged. Coming on a bit late on the Sunday evening CE0Z from Juan Fernandez had a loyal following of the faithful paying homage while HC8N and PT0F were "stacking and racking them". Causing some confusion during the contest was a station from Greece signing SY8A which some logging programmes and prefix lists show as Mount Athos (SV/A). Unfortunately it was just ordinary Greece even though for the Island hunters they were on EU-052.

Also causing a bit of head scratching was William who's active as ST0F, a prefix which used to belong to Southern Sudan (ST0) and is now deleted but is been issued as a visitors prefix.

QSL him to ZS4TX.

Not much activity from the Sudan these days but during JOTA, the boys scouts of Sudan came on as ST2BSS and certainly got a baptism of fire when the screaming mob descended upon them! World traveller Bert PA3GIO once again came on from Africa as first 3B8/PA3GIO and then onto Reunion as FR/PA3GIO/P.

Sticking with Reunion, an exciting bit of news is that Fred F5IRO, who works for the French Army Signals Corp is on Reunion for about four months and has plans to take trips to Juan De Nova (AF-012) as perhaps FR5KH/J. Keep the ears perked for that one!

The Sable Island trip came on as schedules as CY0MM just after Midnight UTC on November 16th with whispers of another "Freeband" operation.

If you still need Myanmar for your DXCC, Hiro JA2EZD and better known as XW2A, has gone QRT after notching up some 3,500 contacts as XY1M and

moved onto Cambodia where he changed his old call of XU7ABF to the new call of XU7ADX.

Also QRT by the time you read this, Chuck, N4BQW, of 3Y0C fame got a last minute assignment to Wake Island and was active as W4BQW/KH9 for a few brief days,.

His name sake but a lot closer to home Chuck EI4IS, sent me an extract of what he heard and worked during the CQ WW and as he says himself, "while I did not participate with a vengeance, I did try to see how well I would fare, with trying to contact as many zones as I could in a leisurely fashion, with my mighty 40 watts of power on 20m only and came up with a total of 39 contacts, that netted a total of 21 out of 40 zones, in all. Not bad for a "curiosity" test from my location".

Chuck also sent a nice log extract for QSO's outside the contest, most notable being: 4U1WB (the World Bank), HI9/N1WON, JW0HU, K4QFF/TI8, K8O (OC-077), T2DX, VY0TA (NA-047) and ZL7C (OC-038).

Denise, F6HWU, a YL op came on from the tiny Island of Principe, part of the Island Republic of Sao Tome and Principe (S9) but with its own IOTA number (AF-044) as opposed to the more frequently visited main Island of Sao Tome (AF-023). She has some company in the form of Paul, K1XM and Charlotte KQ1F, who came on November 19th and were due to remain there until Dec 1st with an entry in the CQ WW CW as S9MX, the last three days might be spent on Sao Tome.

Heading onto mainland Africa, Andy, ex G4ZVJ and now G3AB is very much QRV as 9L1AB from Freetown in war-torn Sierra Leone, while next door in neighbouring Liberia, Mario ex EY8TM starts a three year stint as EL2TM with cards going to F6FNU.

Staying in Africa, Roger G3PVU is up and running as SU9VU from El Gorah, Egypt while just fired up are a large Multi National group putting the Gambia on air as C56R and they will use C56M in the CQ WW Contest with cards for both calls going to OH3RM. On a related topic and on a sad note, a report appeared that Ron G3NKO, who was on from the Gambia as C56RF was found murdered and buried in a shallow grave near the Gambia/Senegal border, a victim of a robbery.

Up and Coming

Plenty of activity to mark into your dair-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

ies as the CW leg of the CQ WW takes place on the last full weekend of November, a lot of the stations that take part in the SSB section also do an entry in the CW leg but there are exceptions. Amongst those to listen out for: Champ E21EIC, will be on from Laos as XW1IC and Team Vertical head back to Jamaica as 6Y9A. Juan, CE4USW shortens the call to a snappy CE4U and staying in South America, ZP5MAL host some guest ops who'll use ZP6T.

Con DF4SA, will be on from the Madeira Islands as CT3EE, while Thomas SM0CXU will put the club station HZ1AB in Saudi Arabia on air as maybe a single op/single band entry. Peter, who's QRV as CN2PM will hope to cross the border into Western Sahara (S0) and use S07PM as a low power entry from Tifariti.

The addition of a Yaesu FT-100D to complement the usual HF rig here in the shack might lead to some reports on the "Magic" band of **6m!**

So far, I've only heard weakly AY4EJ/D during the evening of Oct 4th and did hear and try to work the 3XY7C who was worked by a few lucky EI's.

Certainly one I'll watch out for but asking the impossible is Caroline, a YL operator who's on Amsterdam Island (AF-002) as FT1ZK, which is a Class B call and means no HF activity!

A bit closer is Nicholas 5T5SN, who just put up a four element for six and runs 10 watts from an IC-575A. Travelling down south to the tip of Africa, an interesting event will take place in the northern regions of Limpopo Province of South Africa on December 4th when a total eclipse of the sun will occur.

Some ZS Hams plan to air the special call ZS6SOL to commemorate the event and cards go to ZS5WI.

Finally, it just remains for me to wish all Experimenters, Radio Amateurs and SWL's a very Merry Christmas and a DX-full Happy New Year.

That's it for this issue, thanks to The Daily DX, EI4IS and EI4BZ. Keep listening.

Anthony EI2HY

EI7GK achieves Euro Award.

At new year the REF (French equivalent to the IRTS) announced The Euro Award to celebrate the introduction of our new currency.

To qualify for it you have to work (or hear for SWLs) all 12 euro zone countries in 2002. The station TM2E counts as a wild card. The award consists of a nice plaque.

Paddy EI7GK worked all 12 euro zone countries from Mexico and claimed the award for his XE1/EI7GK callsign. He recently received award No. 136.

Details of the award were published in the January/February 2002 edition of Echo Ireland. Cost is EUR20 with EUR5 for postage to Europe.

The Award Manager is F8BNP



Tipperary Amateur Radio Group

A well-attended Annual General Meeting of the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group took place at Raheen House Hotel Clonmel on November 7th last

An open and frank discussion on all topics of radio was held and the following Committee was elected:

Chairman	John Burke EI2JB
V/Chairman	Ronald McGrath EI6GO
Secretary	Noel Walsh EI2JC
Treasurer	Thomas Hallinan EI2IT
PRO.	Paul Norris EI3ENB

The Group wishes to extend best wishes and congratulations to popular members Tommy and Marie who tied the knot recently.

On Easter Monday last EI7TRG/P was operated by John EI2JB and Paul EI3ENB from north of Cappagh White Co. Tipperary in the low power fixed section of the counties contest. Due to heavy rain early that morning it was not possible to get any closer than 300 metres of the summit. The antenna was eventually erected at 45 degrees giving poor results in both horizontal and vertical polarities; all was reflected in the score.

The Tipperary A. R. G. provided emergency communications to the Aherlow Failte Group during their annual Festival of hill walking on the 13th 14th of April. A base station was set up in the Foot Bar Rossadrehid where Eddie EI3FFB and Hazel EI9IZ operated EI7TRG/P.

Taking part on the walks were Hugh EI2HI, John EI2JB, Tommy EI2IT, John EI7IG and Joe EI5GE.

The VHF/UHF Field Day outing by the Tipperary ARG was a great success at Ballybeagh in the Slieveardagh Hills on the Kilkenny side of the Tipperary/Kilkenny border about 330 metres a.s.l. Two caravans and a tent were set up and base established. One caravan was used for 2m and 70 cms mostly operated by Tommy EI2IT and Paul EI3ENB. The other was operating 4 and 6m manned by EI2JB, EI6FOB and EI5JF.

The weather was reasonably good, while radio conditions were considered to be rather flat

With best DX on 2m at 1250 kilometres and six metres rather in and out, that did not deter the quintet from having a good time and looking forward to next year

The club commandeered a table at the Blarney Rally as a bring and buy, information stand to highlight the club and to inform people who may have an interest in radio living in the Tipperary area of our existence, a lot of old acquaintances were met as well as some new ones.

The Annual Christmas Dinner get together will be held this year in Raheen House Hotel on Saturday December 21st and anyone wishing to attend can get further information from Ron at 052 21654.

Club Roundup

Dundalk

Amateur Radio Society

The Committee of the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society would like to thank all those that attended the recent A.G.M. The club had a busy year which included participation in the Spring 2m Contest, IRTS VHF Field Day, IRTS HF Field Day, part of EJ5E an expedition to Inishboffin Island for the Islands On The Air contest and Headquarter Station for JOTA as EI2DSJ. The club also operated EI0HQ in the IARU Contest. During the year, the club replaced its old original 2m repeater with a new one. Following some debate the A.G.M. was the weekly Tuesday night meeting has now been changed to the 1st Wednesday of the month.

A new committee were elected:

Chairman	Thos Caffrey EI2JD
Secretary	James MI5AHG
Treasurer	Aidan Noone EI7JC
QSL Man.	Jenny Fagan EI1463.

Since the recent demise of Gene Larkin EI3K we have been without a President. Unanimously elected to the position is EI5DA, The Very Rev. Padraic J. O'Kelly.

Classes on ATV started on Wed. 23rd Oct, culminating (hopefully) with the building of a receive/transmit ATV station for the club. Here's to another good year in Amateur Radio. Regards de Thos EI2JD.

Tir Conaill

Amateur Radio Club

The Tir Conaill amateur Radio Club held it's AGM recently. The meeting was well attended and the following officers were elected:

President	Frank McCarron EI6EI
C'man/PRO	Danny Bonner EI6GS
V/Chairman	Mickey Bonar EI6HY
Treasurer	Joe Arnold EI-1318
A/Treasurer..	Martin Gillespie EI8GP
Secretary	Leo McGranaghan EI6IT
A/Secretary...	Laurence Byrne EI4FW
Oifigeach na Gaeilge..	John Timoney EI8DBB
IRTS Club Rep.	Ken McDermott EI4DW

South Dublin Radio Club

Following on the success of Mark Condon EI6JK with the 5 wpm Morse test, three more members of South Dublin Radio Club have now passed the Morse test and have been issued with their new call signs.

They are Tony Cummins EI9JK, Nicholas Cummins EI2JL and Michael Gorman EI4JL. Congratulations to them all.

Morse Classes

The SDR Morse class continues every Tuesday night, and the two teachers, Joe EI7GY and Jim EI4HH are confident that there will be further passes by SDR members before the end of the year.

Jamboree On The Air

South Dublin Radio Club participated in the JOTA weekend by setting up and operating HF and VHF stations for the Wicklow Scouts. (See page 14).

There was considerable interest from the scouts, most of whom were keen to take the mike; many of them spoke to JOTA stations in Ireland and abroad.

SDR members were put to the test, answering questions on antennas and propagation, as well as the different modes and frequencies used by radio experimenters.

Spring Challenge Winners

At a recent Tuesday night meeting of SDR, the winners of the club's Spring Challenge were presented with their trophies.

The winners were Tom Kelly EI2AJ (Restricted Section) and Joe Ryan EI7GY (Open Section).

A near-record attendance of 30 were present at the meeting to congratulate the winners.

Southeastern

Amateur Radio Group

The SEARG ATV project is nearing completion and is managed by Jim EI8IG.

Jim gave an ATV presentation at the club's last meeting on Wed the 30th of November which was well attended.

Classes

The club started its night classes leading up to the theory exam on Monday the 11th of November in the Vocational School, Dungarvan Co. Waterford.

The class was well attended with people attending from Cork, Youghal, Dungarvan and Waterford. The classes will run for approximately the next six months.

The classes will take place in the same venue at 7.15 p.m. each Monday night. For enrolment or details regarding the classes, phone Mark on 087-6302026.

Mayo Radio

Experimenters Network

The Mayo Radio Experimenters Network have announced Saturday December the 21st as the date for their annual Christmas Dinner.

The venue is the Clew Bay Hotel, Westport.

The club regularly meets in a private room at Stensons of Ballyvary on the N5 and the meetings take place on the first Wednesday of the month.

Annual General Meeting

Frances Taheny EI5J has been re-elected chairperson of the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network.

At the Club's recent AGM, Brendan Minish EI6IZ was returned as Secretary, and John McDonnell, EI6IR was elected Treasurer.

Michael Clarke EI3IG is the Club QSL Manager and Padraic Baynes EI9JA is the Rally Director.

Don Gibbons EI5IA is the new Club Rep to the IRTS and John Corless EI7IQ is the new PRO.

In her address to the AGM, Chairperson Frances Taheny EI5J, thanked all of the traders and visitors to the club's first ever rally, especially those that made the trip from Northern Ireland, and overseas.

She also thanked the IRTS for selecting Mayo as the venue for its AGM.

Awards

The Connor Shield for service to amateur radio was won by John Corless EI7IQ and the Wishing Well Shield for outstanding service to the club, went to Padraic Baynes EI9JA.



Still Experimenting

By Ger Kenneally EI8HT

Well the summers been and gone if that's what you'd call it? Apart from the weather, conditions on the bands left a lot to be desired. Still not much we can do about either. On the few good days we did have I managed to play with the odd bit of wire I found laying about on the garage roof. So as promised I'm keeping you informed on my experiments with a two-element wire beam for 40m.

Did I build it? "yes", did it work? "no". I suppose I'd better explain or I'll end up getting my ears pounded by Dave "I've given you 700 words to play with and you write 2". So as I say I'd better elaborate. To start my intention or target was to try and fit a two-element wire beam on the side of the quad, this I managed but and isn't there always a but? I didn't have enough space to fit the elements as a slightly longer dipole in the shape of an open circuit loop.

So I had to bring both ends of the driven element back and make off to both ends of the reflector.

So with all the work, and I mean work, I don't know how many times I had to crank the tower over. I was working on both sides so I had to keep rotating to get the elements on. Anyway after a bit of tuning and pruning with the help of my MFJ259 analyser it was resonant with an SWR of 1.1 to 1 at 7.05 MHz. And it worked as an antenna, only problem is I had no front to back. In fact no matter which I pointed it didn't seem to make any difference, also DX stations sounded weaker than on the bent or folded dipole I was using.

Next day the sun was shining so I got out the old deckchair and sat back looking up at the mast scratching the head and wondering. When the penny drops you know it looked like a two element misshaped hex beam on its side firing straight up. Guess it would have worked well on what was it called? N.V.I.S. (near vertical incidental sky wave) but who needs that from a home based station?

So off with the reflector and reformed the dipole on the reflector side of the quad. Had to retune it as I'd made

some adjustments when I tried to make the beam.

Next I decided why not put a dipole for 30m on the driven side?

This I did, again both legs were slightly longer than your normal dipole, the reason for this is the way the antenna is formed into a kind of loop or square shape. Again I had to short a coil across the feed point only instead of the eight turns I used for 40m. I only needed five turns for 30m. So now I've got two rotary dipoles one for 40m, and the other for 30m instead of the two element beam and they both work and work well.

At the moment I've got nine bands on top of the tower. All formed on the spider and the fibreglass spreaders (40/30m dipoles, 20/10m 2 el quad, 6m 4el quad and 2m 6el quad, total 9 bands) and what about interaction I hear the doubting Thomas's say? Well I say to them let's forget about interaction for a while. And have a look at what I would call the side effects?

And what have side effects got to do with amateur radio? I suppose the easiest way for me to explain would be to use Viagra as an example. Now Viagra as we all know was developed as a drug to help people with dickey-tickers (forgive the pun) but it was soon realized that the people this drug was developed for were dropping like flies, why? Side effects, and what where these effects? Well it made them feel a little bit on the frisky side and they started to over exercise; anyway it wasn't long before the Pharmaceutical Companies realized it was more beneficial (profitable) to produce it for its side effects.

Now I know that if I were to take any one of my antennas and build it as a stand-alone mono band antenna then it wouldn't work, why? Side effect. What in the name of God is he on about now I hear you say?

OK, if you where to put a full-size loop on it's own the impedance would be 100/120 Ohms. Now with another loop close by what happens to your impedance? It goes down, still wondering? Well now we have multi bands with

the impedance about 40/50/60 Ohms, not a bad match?

So we can get rid of most if not all of them queer little things like transformers and matching stubs, and feed direct with 50 Ohm. Now isn't that a nice little side effect?

But what about our friend "interaction"? Is he still there? Of course he is, so what do we do about him? We choke him, how? By slipping half-a-dozen ferrite beads around his neck (over the feed line as close as possible to the feed point of the antenna) problem solved.

On another matter "Morse Code" Firstly let me congratulate Mark EI7FNB (Now EI???) on passing the Morse test at the new speed of 5 wpm. I had the pleasure of meeting Mark at the Cork rally, well done Mark and I look forward to working you on HF.

And what do I think of the new regulations? I don't think the new speed is going to make one blind bit of difference, why? Because you've still got to learn it. When I started to learn indeed everyone started to learn the code did they start at 12 wpm? Don't think so. The point I'm trying to make is after you've learnt the code how long would it take to increase your speed from 5 to 12 wpm? Not long, even at one wpm you've done the hard bit.

What about the dropping of the probationary year for class A licences? Big mistake. Why?

Well all you have to do is listen to the M3s in the UK. Not that its their fault. What do you expect if they are given a licence and told "off you go and enjoy yourself, don't worry about not having any experience"

Also with the probationary year been abolished I can more or less guarantee that the vast majority of people won't bother using CW. Why?

Because they will have learnt it in plain English and when they get on the air what do they hear? Guess the best way to explain is it's like learning French and then someone speaking to you in German.

(Continued on page 11)

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Why as they have made so many changes do they not change the test to a QSO format? Because now after passing the test in plain English what will they do? They'll move up the band and waffle away on SSB. Whereas before you had no choice if you wanted to get on the HF bands then you had to use CW. And you know some of us found out that we actually liked it, also when we got tired we would move up the band and listen. And you know what they say, the only way of getting experience is by listening to others operating,

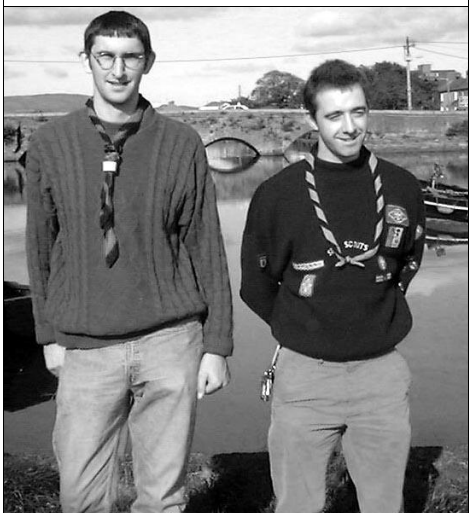
One last point on the topic of CW. We have heard so much from the people who say that it is an outdated, prehistoric form of communicating. The US Coast Guard have abolished it as have many others. Why then are the British forces in the process of reintroducing Morse, have they learnt the errors of their ways?

Also we as Radio Experimenters should be able to build a simple Rx/Tx to work on CW. Now if you wanted to build for SSB, FM or AM, are we still talking "simple" don't think so. My point? We have the ability to build something to work in an emergency but we will have lost the ability to communicate with it.

Fer nw my best to all es hpe cu agn sn.
De Ger EI8HT.

JOTA in Wicklow

Daniel EI9FHB and Alan GI6IXD were just two of the people involved in operating EI2SDR/P in the Wicklow Scout Den for Jamboree On The Air. Further information on the national activity with pictures on page 14.



Letters Page

Good Service

Dear Editor,

This is a totally unsolicited letter which relates to a very pleasant recent experience I had in dealings with the service department of ICOM UK, and in particular with the service manager Geoff Boakes (G8PPQ).

In Sept. 2000 I purchased a dual-band handheld IC-Q7E by post from Waters and Stanton. Early this year I was constructing a 2-metre 20-Watt amplifier as an add-on for this rig, as it is only designed to deliver 300mW. To cut a long story short, I damaged the 2 metre output transistors in the process of testing. I contacted W & S and also Icom UK to see how I would go about having the rig repaired. Both were prompt in replying. W & S would give an estimate for £20 to be offset against any repair, exclusive of postage and packing. This was fair enough considering that the rig was out of warranty and that I had admitted to causing the fault.

However, I also got a reply from Geoff Boakes of Icom UK seeking the serial number and details of purchase. I explained to Geoff exactly how the fault was caused through my own negligence. At the time the Enniskillen Rally was taking place the following Sunday. ICOM UK would be exhibiting there and Geoff advised me to package the rig, enclose my receipt and a covering note and hand it in to the ICOM representative at the show for Geoff's attention. He would see what could be done when the rig reached the ICOM UK workshops in Herne Bay, Kent.

I waited for news, prepared for a sizeable repair bill. I was surprised and disappointed when a "Priority Mail" package arrived about a week later enclosing my rig. I noted that the postage alone came to £8. I opened the documentation expecting to see "unrepairable" or "uneconomical to repair" written down, as I had heard nothing further Icom UK since Enniskillen.

However, I was pleasantly surprised on reading the Despatch Note. The repair was itemised thus; **"4 x 2SC3356 transistors replaced without charge for parts or labour and sent Royal Mail Special Delivery"**. A compliments slip was also enclosed with a short handwritten note from Geoff enclosing the four tiny surface-mount blown output transistors. A certificate of conformity to the specifications was also enclosed for the rig.

I just thought that such outstanding service deserves mention. The rig was outside warranty and the fault was caused by my own negligence.

Yet ICOM UK came up trumps far beyond what I had any right to expect from them.

The ICOM company motto is **"Count on us!"** They certainly went far beyond the motto in this case.

de Tony EI5EM

QSL Problems!

Dear Editor,

Some years ago as a fairly new operator I was pleased to make my first and only contact with the Vatican (HV). However, I was surprised and disappointed that a man of the cloth failed to QSL as promised.

Browsing through the log recently I came across the entry again. It reads as follows:

29/12/83 - 1315GMT - A3J - HV3SJ - QSL via I0DUD.

Don't think I ever had much chance really.

Regards

Joe EI5EV



Use It, Don't Lose It!

By Tony EI5EM

The reduction of the Morse code requirement from 12 to 5 wpm has led to much discussion on its possible impact on the hobby. Some would argue that at 5 wpm it is no longer Morse. Indeed it might be difficult to have a QSO at that speed on HF until more operators at that speed make their presence felt. Others would argue that it has become easier to obtain an A licence at a time when numbers are dwindling, and when new blood is badly needed. Whatever the arguments, the fact remains that the new Regulations are here to stay.

Listening to the VHF and UHF frequencies in the Dublin area recently it is obvious that there is a great new vibrancy and enthusiasm for the hobby. Many operators have recently passed the 5 wpm and are now QRV with new call-signs. This influx bodes well for the future of the hobby. However, I was a little disappointed recently by comments I overheard made by one newly-issued A call-sign holder on vhf.

This new call holder was relating how great it was at last to be working HF into Europe and further afield. He was asked whether this was on CW or phone. The reply in a joking tone was, "What do you think?" Reading between the lines I took it that this operator was glad that he had seen the last of the Morse code. It was a means to an end only. This comment brought me back to my own situation and attitude in 1979, before I obtained my first call-sign EI6AEB.

At that time I was an avid CBer (29WW131) known as The Sea Knight to locals. It was the peak of a solar cycle when DX on SSB could be worked with a wet string. However I knew that DX would not last forever on 27 MHz, and aspired to the Experimenters' Licence. But the big impediment to this was the dreaded Morse code. It was fortunate for me that the Department of P & T, as it then was, had just recently introduced the new code-free B licence. Now for the first time it was no longer necessary to pass the Morse to acquire a call-sign and become QRV on vhf and above. So, along with many other CBers and others besides, I enrolled in theory classes run by Fingal RC in Beneavin College in September 1979. The instructors were

Dick Wilson, Sean Nolan and Sean Linehan.

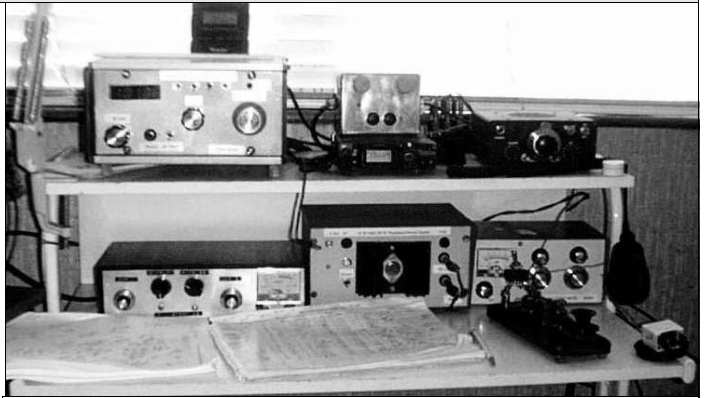
I sat the theory exam in May 1980 and was allocated my EI6AEB call-sign the following September. That was just in time to enrol for the CW course of the late Jimmy Upton, EI8Z at the same venue.

I sat the CW test around Easter 1981 and received my EI5EM call to coincide with the renewal date of the EI6AEB call which I let lapse.

Now that the obstacle of CW had been surmounted, and as I already had an FT101ZD HF rig I was ready to go. In those days a newly issued A call-sign holder was restricted to 25-Watts, CW only, on 20 and 40 metres for the first 12 months. Many experimenters just rode out the 12 months and then applied for the "full" A licence. So you see not everybody served his or her CW apprenticeship even then. As I said earlier, I was fairly negative in my attitude to CW at the time. However, I was a member of NDR and the HF rig there was usually tuned up on the CW end of 40. There were quite a number of other NDR members who were also attending the EI8Z Morse classes, and friendly rivalry developed in seeing who could copy best. Saturday at NDR provided a yardstick to measure progress against.

Shortly after the EI5EM call arrived I gingerly put out a first CQ call, to my surprise a DL answered. Panic, of course ensued and I was gripped by an overpowering urge to throw the "Big Switch" and abandon ship. But I persevered and concluded a very shaky "rubber stamp" QSO, almost collapsing with tension when it was over. However, I completed a further four shaky QSOs that evening. Exhausted, but with a great sense of satisfaction, I eventually threw the "Big Switch" about two hours later.

The next day I arranged a sked with Charlie, EI2EM (ex EI6ACB) for that evening on 2 metres so that we could



The EI5EM Shack

hunt on HF as a pair. In this we offered each other assistance and support. This procedure was followed regularly. It was great to have a second pair of ears listening in. I have no doubt but that there were many other "ears" listening on 2 metres (and HF also). We used to trawl the band separately until we made a contact. We would then relay this on 2 metres before informing our contacts that "another EI is standing by and would also like to call you". Of course by that stage the "other EI" already had name and QTH and other relevant details. Without realising it we were having fun and clocking up the QSOs. Our speeds and confidence were growing all the time. I promised myself to complete at least 1,000 CW QSOs in that year. I reached that goal in eight months.

At the end of the first year I received the "full" A endorsement, and for about a month or so had great fun on SSB. However, I also kept my CW fist in with QSOs on the CW segments of my new bands. After a while I found that the novelty of SSB was wearing thin. Better enjoyment was still being had on CW. So I found myself reverting more and more to that mode for the bulk of HF QSOs. It has remained that way to date. As one who had come into the hobby moaning about the CW requirement, I had become a convert to it.

We were also very fortunate at NDR in that Colm Ardiffe, EI3H was a member. Colm used bring his Vibroplex single paddle key down every Saturday and push us to the limits of our capabilities in speed and endurance. This was even after we had many CW QSOs under our belts, but it rekindled the friendly rivalry

spoken of earlier and helped develop our copying skills further.

The reason I relate this personal tale is to show that when viewed in a positive way Morse can be appreciated for itself, and not be perceived as simply a necessary evil to be overcome. I am not going to try and counter the arguments against the mode. Rather, I would like to highlight some of its advantages. I am asking other EIs at least to give the mode a fair crack of the whip. You have invested time and effort in passing the exam. Don't squander away the skill carelessly. Try it out. You might surprise yourself and like it. Really, you might.

Despite the fact that the maritime, aeronautical and other radio services no longer use Morse, there are still many amateurs still using it. Just take a listen to the lower few KHz of any HF band. It will probably sound more active there than the SSB end. Morse code is still very much alive and well. Hopefully it will be so for many years to come.

The IARU HF Band Plans recognise the importance of CW and assign the lower end of each HF band (VHF and UHF also) for exclusive CW operation. CW really comes into its own with modern rigs, where good filtering is fitted allowing greater ease in picking out and isolating a narrow CW signal from QRM. It is not so easy to clean up the broader SSB signals. If you dismiss CW lightly you are denying yourself the use of large parts of the radio spectrum, which have been allocated to you as a right, as well as the possibility of many potential QSOs. Incidentally the 10.1 MHz (30 metre) band is for CW only. If a time comes when the Morse requirement is abolished, I hope that the IRTS and IARU will support the maintenance of the CW Band Plans long into the future.

Another advantage of CW over SSB is that it is easier to overcome language barriers. Morse is almost a language in its own right. Every CW operator knows how to conduct a QSO with any other operator, regardless of language differences. Sometimes the QSO will consist of only exchange of RST, names and greetings. But isn't it often likewise on SSB, even when both operators speak the same language! Also as CW is virtually a language in its own right, the use of abbreviations and Q codes can effectively double the speed of sending.

While SSB is an efficient method of

voice communication, it is hardly hi-fi. To me it often sounds like Donald Duck. Add QRM and QSB and the problem becomes worse. Foreign accents and pronunciations can also further exacerbate the problem of copying SSB. This is my own personal experience and is not a criticism of the mode. All that is needed to copy a CW station is hear the carrier being keyed on and off! Often-times a weak CW signal may get through successfully where SSB may fail. The CW signal is also less frequency hungry and therefore far more CW stations can be accommodated within a band of frequencies than SSB ones. Use of Morse code is true to the ideal of the "self training" aspect of the hobby. Practice makes perfect, and it is no different with Morse.

Equipment designed for transmission and reception of CW can be a lot less complex than that for SSB. A CW transmitter, in simplistic terms, is a device where RF energy is generated and applied to the antenna as a result of closing the contacts of the key. No modulation is required in the transmitter. Consequently, no demodulator is required in the receiver, making for easier construction of equipment. Construction by home-brewers of CW equipment therefore becomes an attractive and viable option. Witness the explosion of interest in CW QRP operation in recent years. Admittedly, not all QRP operators are home-brewers, but for those who are, construction of CW equipment is far simpler and less expensive than SSB gear. This is a further opportunity for self-training in radio.



As an example of such equipment, I attach a photo of a TenTec 20 metre superhet CW rig that I recently built from a kit. This cost me €100 and gives 5 Watts RF out. However, I have made a few modifications to it. I increased the band coverage from 50 KHz to 100 KHz by adding a second switchable VFO coil. I also added a vernier 6:1 slow-motion drive for the VFO. There was no

frequency display, but I purchased a frequency counter from USA for \$20, which gives the frequency in Morse at either 12 or 24 wpm at the touch of a button! This rig doesn't require a heavy PSU. In fact it will happily run for hours and hours on 10 rechargeable NiMh AA penlight batteries. This is a nice inexpensive way to get started in the hobby. This rig should not be considered second rate. It is a high performance piece of equipment, as it is has been designed and optimised for one specific band.

Morse code existed even before the discovery of radio and is an integral part of its history. By virtue of that alone it deserves some special recognition. I like to make an analogy of the study of radio and the study of music. A qualified student of music will be familiar with all aspects of his art, be it modern or classical. I consider Morse to be an integral part of the art of radio, and all students of radio should experience the music of Morse code.

The bottom line on CW is that it can be fun if it is approached with an open mind and without any negative preconceptions. I appreciate that it may not turn out to be everybody's cup of tea. All I want to say is that I think that every self-respecting amateur owes it to himself, having invested so much in learning Morse, to at least take a few sips from the cup to see how the tea tastes!

To encourage wider use and enjoyment of Morse code, why not have a 5 wpm net on 2 metres FM? Why not have an IRTS News transmission on 2 metres FM at 5 wpm followed by call-ins? Why not have an annual 5 wpm competition for new licensees? I am just putting these suggestions into the melting pot for consideration.

My only reason for putting them forward is to encourage more use of CW and to show that Morse code need not be the outdated mode of communications that many seem to think it is.

In conclusion, I would just like to say that in my twenty-two years of operation as an amateur, nothing can beat the thrill of hearing my own call-sign in floating back on the ether in response to a CW CQ. That excitement has never diminished over the years.

All comments welcome via email to ei5em@eircom.net

73 es 72 de Tony, EI5EM

Jamboree On The Air 2002

By Seán O'Súilleabháin EI3IP



Mount Mellary and EI2SAI operated by the Tralee Sea Scouts from the sailing club in Fenit.

Units who participated in JOTA are asked to submit reports to The CSI National JOTA Organiser, Scouting Ireland - CSI, Larch Hill, Dublin 16 or by Email to njo@scoutingirelandcsi.com, or to

The SAI National JOTA Organiser, Scouting Ireland - SAI, Tennants Hall, Christ Church, Rathgar, Dublin 6, or by Email to natoff@scoutsai.iol.ie before the 30th November.

The 45th JOTA was held over the weekend of 19th and 20th October 2002.

The opening of JOTA in Ireland took place on the Saturday with a short address by the Chief Scout of Scouting Ireland - CSI, Peter Dixon on the 40 meter WAI frequency and the Dublin 2 Metre Repeater, operating as EI2DSJ from the Dundalk Radio Club.

This was followed by a call and Scouts availed of the opportunity to talk with the Chief.

Besides EI2DSJ which operated as the Headquarter Station for Scouting Ireland - CSI from Dundalk, other stations heard on air for JOTA that weekend were:

EI2SDR/P/J operated by South Dublin Radio Club from the Scout Den in Wicklow,

EI4BST/J operated by the 132nd Dublin Radio Scout Group from the Community Centre in Bayside,

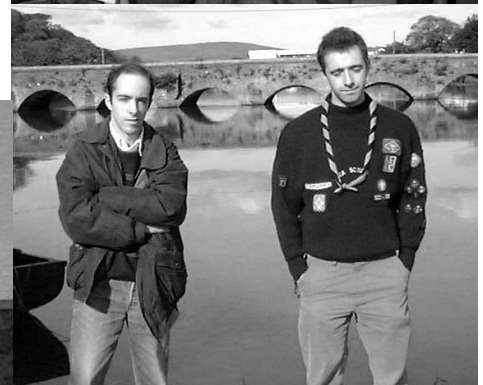
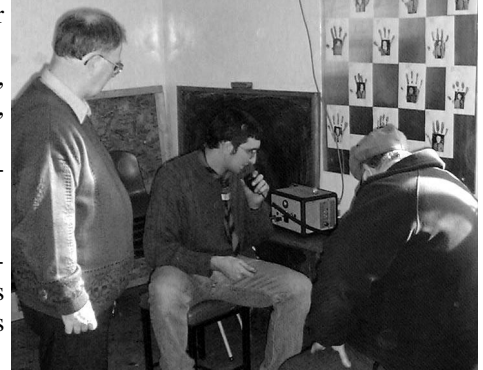
EI5MRC/J operated by the Mellary Radio Club from the Scout Campsite at

These will be used in the National Report to the WOSM in Geneva. Reports should if possible include photographs and press cuttings.

There is a copy of the Unit Report Form in the Radio Scouting Handbook which is available from the National Headquarters of Scouting Ireland - CSI, Larch Hill, Dublin 16, phone 01-495 6300 (any Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday).

Alternatively a copy can be emailed by contacting Sean EI3IP at 087-232 6994 or at ei3ip@eircom.net.

Scouting Ireland wishes to thank all those Amateurs and Radio Clubs who assisted in this year's JOTA and with other Radio Scouting activities held during the year.



Pictures from Wicklow

Top Left: Wicklow Scouts in action.

Top Right: It's the girls turn!

2nd from top: EI7GK looks on

3rd from top: Tom EI7HT with his grandson and Nicky on the mike.

4th from Top: Nicky and Alan GI6IXD

Bottom Left: Leaders and Amateurs involved in Wicklow,



The new Irish rules and regulations for radio experimenters use decibels to designate transmitter power levels and allowable levels of spurious emissions. Discussions with many experimenters reveal an unfamiliarity with the decibel notation. Transmitter power outputs have always been specified directly in watts. With the new system they are still specified in watts –but very indirectly. The actual system of measuring transmitter power has been drastically changed, but we shall not go into that here. That can be dealt with at a future date. Here we shall solely deal with converting decibels to watts and visa versa.

History

The decibel is one tenth of a bel. The bel is named in honour of Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone. It is based on the loss in signal in one mile of standard American telephone cable as used in 1924. It originated with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and was quickly adopted as an international standard. The decibel is based on common logarithms, that is, logarithms to the base 10. Another system using the neper (named after the mathematician Napier) based on natural logarithms, that is, logarithms to the base e was adopted. However, beyond their use in continental European landline circles, nepers are seldom encountered in radio technology.

Definition

A decibel is a ratio between two quantities. Two powers P1 and P2 are said to differ by x decibels where

$$x = 10 \log P1/P2$$

If P1 is 100 times P2 and we accept for the moment that the log of 100 is 2 it follows that if

$$\begin{aligned} X \text{ dB} &= 10 \log P1/P2 \\ &= 10 \log 100 \\ &= 10 \times 2 \\ &= 20 \end{aligned}$$

So, a gain of 20 dB corresponds to a gain of 100 times.

The gain of this amplifier is by above reckoning 20 dB.

The figure of 20 dB gives no indication of the size or value of P1. It could be anything -100 watts or 4 watts or 20 microwatts - all we know from the figure of 20 dB is that it is 100 times greater than P2. However, if P2 is one watt P1 (which is 100 times greater) must be 100 watts. Likewise if P2 is a milliwatt, P1 must be 100 milliwatts.

The convention is: if we are going to deal in watts we give P2 a value of one watt and call the ratio dBw. Now the power P1 is 100 times P2 so we are specifying 100 watts. When dealing with smaller levels of power 1 milliwatt is used for P2 and the ratio dBm is used. It follows that 20 dBm means a power level of 100 milliwatts.

For power losses a negative sign is used so -20dB indicates a power loss of 100 times. -20 dBw means a power of 1/100 of a watt and -20 dBm indicates a power of 1/100 of a milliwatt.

Calculating dBs

To convert dB values to real numbers and visa versa you can dig out your old log tables or borrow your children's. However it will save you much grief and perspiration if you use a scientific calculator.

To convert 26 dB simply divide by 10 and key in the answer (2.6). Press the "10 to the power of x" key and read 398.1 on the display. This is a sensible approximation to 400. 26 dBw converts to 400 watts. To get the dBw equivalent of 150 watts key in 150 and press the "LOG" key to read 2.176, multiply this by 10 to get 21.76 dBw (sensible approximation is 22 dBw)

If you have not got a scientific calculator you can use the calculator function on a computer. You will probably find that there is no "10 to the power of x" key but you simply use the INV key followed by the LOG key when converting from dBw. For example, if you wish to find what 23 dBw means, divide 23 by 10 to obtain

2.3. Key this onto the calculator screen. Press INV key followed by LOG key and read 199.526 on the screen. This is essentially 200 watts.

Some Typical Values

26 dBW	-	400 watts
22 dBW	-	150 watts
20 dBW	-	100 watts
17 dBW	-	50 watts
14 dBW	-	25 watts

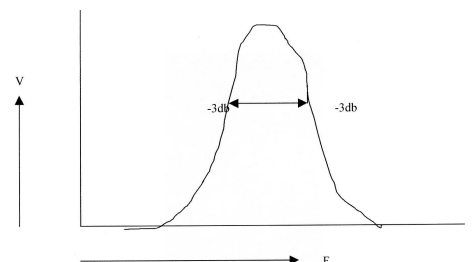
Uses for the dBW notation

In systems with gains and losses the individual gains and losses of each item in the chain expressed in dB are simply added and subtracted to find the total result.

For example, if a transmitter of 100 watts (20 dBW) is fed through a feeder of 10 dB loss and through a filter of 2 dB insertion loss and on to an antenna of 5dB gain the ERP (estimated radiated power) in the direction of maximum antenna gain is:

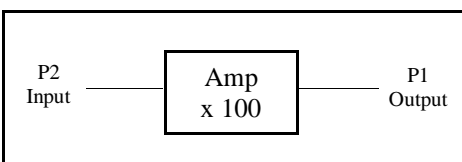
$$20-10-2+5 = 13\text{dBW} = 20 \text{ watts.}$$

No article on dBs would be complete without mention of 3dB. 3dB corresponds to a ratio of 2:1 or double the power. Likewise -3dB refers to half the power. A typical place where -3dB is used is the response curve of a tuned circuit. The bandwidth is measured between the -3dB points (otherwise known as the half power points) on the curve.



If 26 dBw is 400 watts, 3dB down on this (23dBw) is 200 watts. A further 3dB down (20dBw) is half of this again or 100 watts and so on.

It follows that 400 watts (26dBw) plus 3dB is double the power or 800 watts.





Contest Corner

With
Dave EI4BZ
ei4bz@eircom.net

Welcome to another edition of contest Corner.

This month we have the results of the 2m Autumn Counties Contest and a report from the Manager Noel EI2JC. Congratulation to the winners and all who took part. Great to see some of the new licensees getting involved and doing so well. We can only look forward to Easter Monday. It's not too far away.

The two biggest contests are now history and I hope you enjoyed one or both of them.

The most recent was the CQWW CW one and reports suggest that conditions were not too good. Nevertheless, activity seemed as high as ever and several EI stations were heard over the weekend. I took part as single op high power with an eye on the EI record currently held by Tim EI8IC. I hope I did enough to displace him.

Members of the East Cork Group would love to see all the records held in the real capital!

The next big ones are the ARRL Top Band Contest on December 6th to the 8th, followed by the ARRL 10 Metre contest on the 14th and 15th.

The 10m contest usually attracts great interest from EI operators and this could be the last time in this solar cycle to have a real go.

Another contest worth a look at before Christmas is the Croatian CW Contest on the 21st and 22nd. It runs from 1400 Saturday to 1400 Sunday. A good alternative to traipsing around shopping centres!

Top Band enthusiasts are catered for once again just after the holiday season with the Stew Perry Distance Contest on the 28th and 29th and again at the end of January with the CQ Worldwide 160 CW contest on the 24th to the 26th. On the same weekend we have the Belgian UBA Contest on SSB. They present a lovely trophy for the leading European Community station. This has been won twice in the past from EI by John EI8IR operating EI7M.

Have a great Christmas and I hope you get the presents you hoped for.

Dave EI4BZ

Islands On The Air Contest 2002 Claimed Scores

Posn	Call	Location	Category	Hours	Mode	Power	Score
12	EI7M	Mainland	Multi-op	24	Mixed	High	6,235,977
25	EJ4F	Inisheer	Multi-op	24	Mixed	High	3,869,904
30	EJ5E	Inisbofin	Multi-op	24	Mixed	High	3,217,667
	EI7IQ	Mainland	Single-op	24	SSB	Low	557,403
	EI7CC	Mainland	Single-op	12	SSB	Low	349,044
	EI4CF	Mainland	Single-op	12	SSB	Low	275,604
	EI4DW	Mainland	Single-op	12	CW	Low	191,496

CQWW CW EI Records (Up to and Including 2001)

	Callsign	Score	QSOs	Zones	DXCC	Year
All	EI8IC	1,010,328	1,463	76	268	2000
10	EI6BT	198,128	838	31	91	2000
15	EI8GP	358,150	1,388	32	98	2000
20	EI3DP	525,968	1,715	36	106	1996
40	EI4BZ	197,912	1,131	23	81	2000
80	EI4BZ	142,870	1,140	18	73	2001
160	EI7M (9HC)	123,214	858	19	72	1996

Low Power

LAll	EI4DW	844,190	1,225	80	210	1999
L10	EI5DI	238,784	1,087	25	66	1992
L15	EI6FR	246,848	1,171	32	101	1998
L20	EI6FR	264,537	1,035	29	104	1996
L40	No entry					
L80	EI6FR	56,161	742	12	59	1997
L160	EI7IU	31,507	482	11	50	1998

Assisted (packet)

A All	EI4DW	453,789	655	81	262	2001
A 10	EI6FR	370,678	1,269	36	118	1999
A 15	No entry					
A 20	EI8GP	142,044	602	26	88	1996
A40	No entry					
A80	No entry					
A 160	No entry					

Multi-Single

MS	EI7M	3,815,169	3,395	121	398	1993
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Multi-Multi

MM	No entry					
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Winner of QST Magazine Award

Congratulations to Declan Craig EI6FR who won the QST magazine cover plaque award for August.

Declans article was titled "The 2002 South Sandwich/South Georgia Micro-Lite DXpedition."

Videos and DVDs of the trip are available from Declan. See page 20,.

2 Metre Counties Contest

Autumn 2002 Report

By Noel Walsh EI2JC, IRTS Contest Manager

The Autumn 2 m counties contest took place on the 25th August 2002

The level of activity appeared to be down slightly on the corresponding Spring event.

Examination of the logs revealed activity in 26 counties, down from 31 in the spring edition. Some counties which are normally active such as Wexford, Waterford Galway and Westmeath for example showed little or no activity.

A total of 20 logs were received. There was about 50/50 balance between paper and emailed logs.

With the exception of two logs, the standard of logs received was high and a considerable improvement on the previous event.

Logs were neat, accurate and provided all necessary information.

I note that following scrutiny that I hadn't to change many of the claimed scores.

All logs were re-checked for scores and as far as possible cross-checked against other logs that were received.

A small number of deductions were made mainly for busted reports.

One log had a significantly increased score due to the entrant counting 3 instead of 6 points for 'other' counties.

Unfortunately I could not accept two entries due to completely inadequate logs: One log had only 3 out of 23 received reports in the log.

Another entrant did not give his callsign, a summary of his station, a declaration of compliance with the rules and incomplete reports for all QSO's. As this log was quite small it may have been only intended as a check log but it did not state this.

Entries were evenly distributed across the different categories with FM only and Low Power/P proving the most popular. There were excellent scores again in the low power portable section with the 1st, John EI4HS and 2nd, Joe EI3IX in this section coming only behind EI2SDR in the overall high score and beating all the fixed stations.

In the FM only section the winner by a considerable margin was a first timer and new licensee Kyle EI9FGB. The long hard climb paid off.

Autumn 2002 2m Counties Contest

	QTH	Points	QSO's	Counties
High Power Fixed				
1. Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI	CK	3816	57	18
2. Mark Boothman EI9IB	KE	3360	53	15
3. Brendan Kavanagh EI8IB	D	630	30	7
High Power Portable				
1. South Dublin R. C. EI2SDR	LS	6138	74	18
2. Ray Harbison GI3PDN	AM	3808	42	17
Low Power Fixed				
1. Thos Caffrey EI2JD	LH	3042	54	13
2. Nicky Mullally EI9JF	KE	1988	41	14
3. Paul Norris EI3ENB	KK	1452	31	11
Low Power Portable				
1. John Kelly EI4HS	CW	4912	62	16
2. Joe Fadden EI3IX	MO	3906	52	18
3. South Eastern ARC EI2WRC	KK	3525	53	15
4. Dave Moore EI4BZ	OY	2610	37	15
5. Peter Grant EI4HX	MH	2496	39	16
FM Only				
1. Kyle O'Connell EI9FGB	WW	3072	39	16
2. John Edgeworth EI6IW	TN	1850	31	15
3. Pdraig O'Meachair EI7GK	CW	1235	22	13
4. Eamonn Kavanagh EI3FFB	TS	1176	27	14
5. John Barry EI8IR	CK	1056	25	12

Contest Calendar

December

6/8th	2200-1600	ARRL 160m Contest	CW
14/15th	0000-2400	ARRL 10m Contest	CW/SSB
21/22nd	1400-1400	Croatian CW Contest	CW
28th	0000-2359	RAC Canada Winter Contest	CW/SSB
28/29th	1500-1500	Stew Perry Top Band Distance	CW

January

18th	1200-2000	LZ Open Contest	CW
19th	0000-2400	HA DX Contest	CW
24/26th	2200-1600	CQ 160m Contest	CW
25/26th	0600-1800	REF (French) Contest	CW
25/26th	1200-1200	BARTG RTTY Contest	RTTY
25/26th	1300-1300	UBA (Belgian) DX Contest	SSB

February

8/9th	0000-2400	CQWW RTTY WPX Contest	RTTY
8/9th	1200-1200	PACC (Dutch) Contest	CW/SSB
8/9th	2100-0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW
15/16th	0000-2400	ARRL International DX	CW
21/23rd	2200-1600	CQWW 160m Contest	SSB
22/23rd	0600-1800	REF (French) Contest	SSB
22/23rd	1300-1300	UBA (Belgian) DX Contest	CW

March

1/2nd	0000-2400	ARRL International DX	SSB
15/17th	0200-0200	BARTG Spring Contest	RTTY
15/16th	1200-1200	Russian DX	CW/SSB

XE1/EI7GK

Paddy, EI7GK spent the summer at his daughter's QTH in Mexico. As soon as the flights were booked Paddy's daughter contacted the SGT about his visitors licence application. This required photocopies of his EI licence, his passport and a fee of 824 pesos (EUR110 at the time). The rig, an FT757 travelled in hand luggage, all other equipment went in the main baggage. At Frankfurt Airport the rig was considered unusual so it was subjected to very high tech scanning over and above the normal X-ray.

The day after arrival the antenna had to go up. His daughter's house is located in a steep valley with plenty of tall trees, so it was possible to get good height easily. A 2 element wire beam for 20m fed with twin feed was constructed and with the help of son Declan EI4FCB and Mexican in-laws Sidar and Leonel the antenna was up high above the valley.

The GPS was used to get a bearing on EI, which was 32° so the antenna was pointed towards EI. How would it work? Well the rig was set up and the SWR checked and found to be 1.2 to 1. It loaded well on 15m & 17m bands with the aid of a smart tuner borrowed from Fergus EI6IB. The first CQ call went out and was immediately answered with a 5 and 9 from OM5XX followed by OK, VE, I LY M S5 etc. all good reports.

The following Sunday XE1/EI7GK called in to the Irish hour on 21.317MHz and worked the first 2 EIs Ian, EI3Y in Kildare and Tom EI9CJ in Dundalk.

Working state-side from Mexico was very easy, like working Italy or Germany from EI.

Ger EI8HT in Youghal became a frequent contact on 18 MHz. July produced some large sunspot activity and for a while only North America could be heard. Paddy discovered that the best time for working Europe was early morning Irish time so with the help of the IRTS news he let it be known that XE1/EI7GK would be on the WAI frequency 14.268 mornings from 6 am till 8 am.

On 24/7/02 was delighted to hear George GI4SRQ answering at 6.01 (Midnight Mexican time). Each morning after that there would be a pile up of Europeans for the XE1 prefix. And many EIs and GIs were worked.

Counties worked were Kildare, Louth, Cork, Armagh, Limerick, Westmeath, Antrim, Wicklow, Galway as Gaeilge, Derry, Leitrim & Dublin.

Sometimes the car battery, which was the power supply, (Mexico uses 110V) would run down and put an end to the pile up.

The antenna worked really well, and on many occasions got through pile-ups for rare DX such as TF, SU, and it also got good reports from ZL, VK JA etc.

The Smart tuner was limited to 100W so the maximum power Paddy used was 80W, which proves that you don't need massive power and expensive antennae to work the world.

In all 53 countries, 33 American states and 23 EI and 4 GI contacts were logged. Paddy worked all 12 Euro zone countries from Mexico and so claimed the Euro Award issued by the REF. Award no 136 was issued to XE1/EI7GK



Reading the Mail

By
Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #21 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 7 September to 1 November 2002.

During the time small packets of cards (less than 1 kilo) came from EDR Denmark, FRC Cuba, LABRE (Fortaleza), LABRE (PIAUT), LCRA Colombia, LRAL Latvia, NARG Georgia, SARA Slovakia, VK2 buro, and VR2 Hong Kong buro.

In addition larger lots came from ARRL, CRC Czech Republic, Dutch QSL Buro, REF, JARL, MRASZ Hungary, NRRL, (1 - 2 kilos each), ARI, (6 kilos total).

While sorting the cards the following were noticed and thought worthy of mention: A52FH, AX2ITU, D2FGC, E4/OK1FHI, FO0AND, TA5/M0HEN, XW3ZNR, YI9VK, ZA/OK1JR, ZK1FGV, ZR6ZL, ZR6DXB, 7Q7CE and 9G1AA.

Also very obvious was the large number of cards reflecting activity on 50MHz with Turkey, South Africa, USA and many different countries of Europe.

As well as cards from many Italian islands, for island chasers the following were noticed:

AH2R, BO0M, BV2B/9, BV9AYA, FJ/PA3GIO/m, FS/PA3GIO/m, FY/F5KEE, JI1PLF, JF3BFS, JI3DST/6, PA3GIO/HI9, PJ6/PA3GIO/p, TF4RX, VK9XV, VP8DEI, and 5K8T.

Congratulations to all concerned.

For now, season's greetings, all best wishes and lots of good DX in 2003.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL.

Slievenamon Shield

(For 70cm FM activity over the Sundays in July)

Congratulations to Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI for his success in the Slievenamon Shield with achieved 114 points. Runners up were Gerry Molloy EI5HJ, Eamonn Kavanagh EI3FFB and Joe Fadden EI3IX.

Announcement:

High Level 70 cm band transverter for contest-running

Many customers asked for a High Level transverter from 28 MHz to 432 MHz. Now, we decided to develop such a product. It will have the following specifications:

- > Large-signal receiving preamplifier
- > three-pole helical filter
- > 20 Watt LD MOS FET PA
- > 50 mW high level mixer
- > low noise crystal oscillator
- > divided input for RX

28 MHz input power can be adjusted between 1 mW to 100 mW

The 2 m module will follow after ending this development.

NEW

DB6NT 13 cm Converter for OSCAR 40 Downlink

SUPER LOW NOISE CONVERTER for conversation of the 2400 MHz microwave downlink band to the 144 MHz or 432 MHz band. Employing a balanced mixer and helixfilter and using a ceramic filled circuit board as well as state of out circuit design and modern HEMT-FETs, this converter was developed with outstanding specifications. The converter is able to be mounted in a waterproof case direct on the antenna. Built-in bias "T". For power feed up the coax cable.

Input frequency range: 2400...2402 MHz

Noise figure typ. 0.6 dB NF

IF frequency: 144...146 MHz or 432...434 MHz with option 70 cm IF

Gain: min. 26 dB adjustable

Typ: **MKU 24 TM OSCAR**, built-in a waterproof case € 287,-

Bias tee MKU 270 for supply the converter via coax cable:

N-Conn.: MKU 270 N € 46,- BNC-Conn.: MKU 270 BNC € 41,-



MKU 24 OSCAR € 255,-

KUHNE electronic GmbH
MICROWAVE COMPONENTS

www.db6nt.de

All Modules incl. test certificate.
Versions can be supplied for other frequencies.
Catalog for request free!

Kuhne electronic GmbH
Scheibenacker 3, 95180 Berg/Oberfanken
Tel. 00 49 (0) 92 93 - 800 939
Fax. 00 49 (0) 92 93 - 800 938
E-mail: kuhne.db6nt@t-online.de

Members Advertisements

For Sale: KW Vanguard - AM/CW Transmitter, single 6146€50.00
SSTV - PA0KON PCB, manual, software, 386 PC, Monitor,
Matrix Printer €50.00
Yaesu YO-901 Multiscope with manual€50.00
0 - 20 Volt, 1 Amp variable Power Supply with meters€20.00
Cobra 148GTL 10 Metre Mobile Rig with linear amp. SSB/AM/CW€50.00
Explorer HF Linear Amplifier, 80 - 10m including WARC. 2 x 3-500 valves€1200.00
Contact Brendan at 01-4907551

For Sale: Icom 706 Mk2 DSP .€700.00
Yaesu FT840 (10 mnths old) ... €650.00
Yaesu FT101ZD Mk3 WARC Bands,€430 00
Yaesu FV101 DM VFO,€180.00 (including manual & cables)
All items are in spotless condition & perfect operating order.
Phone 087- 2904243 or E-Mail <rmuir@eircom.net>

For Sale : IC 728 plus power supply
600 Euro OVNO
EI8EN on 087-2550041

For Sale:
Late EI8IY Shack Items:
No reasonable offers refused.
Kenwood TS 850S€1000.00
FT 980 Cat €600.00
Avair (AV600) SWR/Pwr meter €70.00
FT 700S 2M multimode (needs attention) offers?
Kenwod Remote VFO-700S,..... offers?
Kenwood SP70 Ext speaker, offers?
Alinco 130 2M 50W €180.00
FC 107 Tuner with manual..... offers?
Watson Frequency Counter FC130 €50.00
Standard C558 2/70 Dual band H/H €170.00
IC PCR 1000, Boxed with manual and software..... €300.00
W300 2/70 vertical antenna (no ground planes)..... offers?
Details: ei7ir@esatclear.ie

For Sale: Moonraker Tri-band Vertical, 6m, 2m & 70cms. New.
061-397004

For Sale: ICOM 706 MkII, HF/2 meter transceiver, with DSP. Used very little from new. Boxed with manuals, microphone, spare fuses etc..... €800.00
Contact Pat EI8CN
01-494-3721 or pef@esatclear.ie

For Sale: Yaesu 2500R, 25w 2 meter FM Tcwr with YE17 mike and manual. Icom 735 all band all mode solid state , 100w Tcwr.
Icom AT100 HF Automatic tuner.
Astron RS20a power supply.
Icom SM6 desk mike (manuals for all).
Yaesu FL2100 1200 watt linear amp. (manual)
Qro Z-match for 80 to 10m.
Kenwood TS120S Transceiver and Kenwood PS30 power supply and microphone.
The 120S needs repair as it goes into oscillation sometimes on transmit. All else in excellent condition. No reasonable offer will be refused.
Enquiries to Bernie EI6AX at 027-73011, who is disposing of it for a retired friend

For Sale: ICOM IC-745 HF General Coverage Tx with desk microphone & built in power supply,
Boxed with manual €500.00
Microwave Modules 28 to 432 MHz Transverter 10w €80.00
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ei5gm@oceanfree.net



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